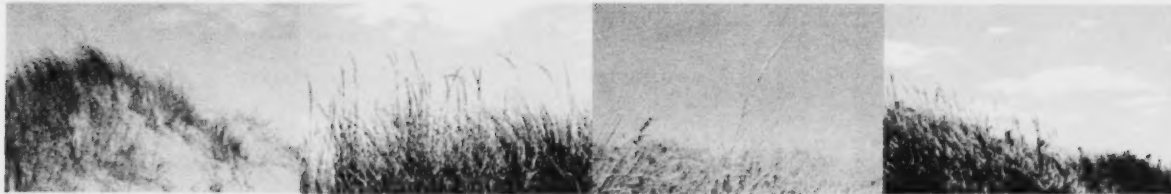
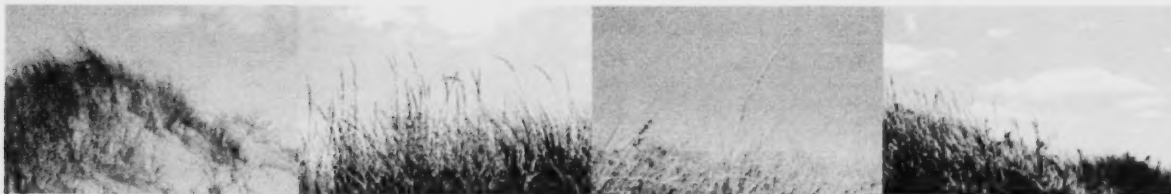


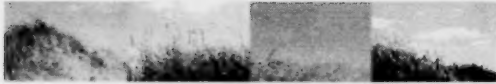
ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006



ACTIVITIES
OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN



APRIL 1, 2005 TO MARCH 31, 2006



ABOUT THE COVER IMAGES

A collage of PEI landscape photographs
by Sister Norma Gallant,
ACSW Member



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Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

PO Box 2000
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January 2007

Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Shea:

I am pleased to present you with the 2005/2006 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements as well as a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Lund".

Kirstin Lund, Chairperson

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

This past year, 2005, marked the 30th Anniversary of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. In this busy anniversary year, the Advisory Council continued to be an active force for collaborative change towards equality for women on Prince Edward Island.

A great deal of the Advisory Council's time in 2005 focused on women in government and decision-making, with a special focus on women and electoral reform in the build-up to the November plebiscite on PEI's electoral future. In addition to putting out a policy guide on electoral reform, the Advisory Council joined a number of other organizations and individuals to work on a "YES" campaign. As we stated in our policy guide and plebiscite materials, we feel strongly that a move to a Mixed Member Proportional system

would have very important benefits for Island women and families. In the coming year, we will continue to press for movement towards proportional representation in our voting system.

In early 2006, the Advisory Council had to turn its attention to another vote — the January federal election. The issues the Advisory Council highlighted in the "Expect Equality Every Day" calendar included a number of familiar issues: quality early childhood care and education, improved maternity and parental benefits, legal support for family break-ups, equal rights for Aboriginal women, the end of dominance and abuse in relationships, support for women working for equality nationally and internationally, increased numbers of female political leaders, a fairer voting system, women's reproductive choice,

equal marriage for same-sex partners, and livable income for women and families.

A highlight of Advisory Council planning to address these challenging issues came at the end of January, with a brainstorming session including Advisory Council members and staff, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Gail Shea, and Interministerial Women's Secretariat staff Faye Martin and Donna Reardon. The discussion led the Council to a better understanding of how to work collaboratively with government to make a maximum impact with recommendations.

Other bits of my time as Chairperson have been focused on representing the Advisory Council on a committee which has just completed research on the needs of women offenders and ex-offenders as they reintegrate into the community after or while serving a sentence. The results of

the research were revealing. The majority of the needs identified by PEI women and their support providers are issues that the Advisory Council has identified as issues concerning many Island women — family violence, addictions programs specifically focused on women's needs, access to family law legal aid, and access to affordable child care and transportation.

An exciting recent initiative I've been facilitating is a Circle of Support and Safety for a woman who is a survivor of abuse and is facing danger as her abuser is released from prison. Using the idea that people and organizations are more likely to take action on plans they were involved in making, the Circle of Safety includes law enforcement and various community services to form a safety plan they can all help enforce to keep this woman and her children safe.

Community partnerships around family violence prevention continue to

Annual Report 2005/2006

gain momentum. The Charlottetown Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force led not only to training for city workers in family violence prevention and greater public awareness of family violence, but it also led to Charlottetown being chosen as a pilot site for Women and Cities International. Summerside's City Council is following Charlottetown's lead by establishing anti-violence initiatives in cooperation with East Prince women's organizations.

Finally, while sad to see some wonderful Council members depart this year and last, I was excited to welcome four new Council members, all with personal and professional experiences that will contribute greatly to the work of the Council. I'm looking forward to including their perspectives in the development of priorities for the Council's work over the next few years.

Kirstin Lund
Chairperson

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

MANDATE AND MEETINGS

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEI ACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has

developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI

- conducts research on these identified concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible on the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Advisory Council meetings, 2005–06

- 86th meeting: April 20, 2005
- 87th meeting: June 29, 2005
- 88th meeting: September 30, 2005
- 89th meeting: January 25, 2006

MEMBERS

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women.

Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms.

In 2005–06, the Advisory Council said goodbye and offered sincere thanks to Joan Savage, who completed her term

of appointment on April 4; to Wendy MacLaren, who completed her term of appointment on October 10; and to Kim Bailey who resigned from Council in July. The Council welcomed Sister Norma Gallant, Catherine (Meade) McAleer, Sadie MacKenzie, and Roseanne Sark. All four were appointed on July 13. Lisa Murphy coordinated an orientation session for new Council members on October 12.

At the end of fiscal year 2005–06, Council was still waiting for appointments to fill one vacancy. Executive Council did not appoint a Vice-Chairperson in 2005–06.

MEMBERS

Kirstin Lund, Stratford — Chairperson

Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2006

Kirstin Lund has been a faculty member of UPEI's Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies since 1998, teaching courses in mediation, communication skills, and restorative justice. Since leaving the practice of law in 1996, she has coordinated many projects concerning conflict resolution and woman abuse prevention. More recently, she has coordinated research and project work in support of women's access to maternity and parental benefits and increasing the number of women in government. She has served on several boards related to advancing the status of women including Women's Network PEI, Transition House Association, and the PEI Crime Prevention Association.

Elaine Rabinowitz, Breadalbane — Member

Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2006

Elaine Rabinowitz is a Registered Nurse and works with Community Mental Health in Summerside. She is a founding and current member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, a member of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee, and a previous board member of Transition House Association. Elaine also contributed to the board of the PEI Multicultural Association and was active in Home and School and Guiding. She

brings to Council her dedicated commitment to an international view of women's issues and a special concern for diversity and immigration issues.

Joan Savage, Summerside — Member

Council term: April 4, 2000, to April 4, 2005

Joan is the Nurse Manager of Public Health Nursing with the East Prince Health Authority at the Summerside Health Centre. Joan has been presenting health information to women across PEI for over 20 years, through Holland College, East Prince Women's Information Centre, and the public health system. Her knowledge of health-care is always an asset to Council, especially in discerning ways to support women and children's wellness. Joan is also recognized as a very fine visual artist. She lives with her family in Summerside.

Wendy MacLaren, Morell — Member

Council term: October 10, 2000, to October 10, 2005

Wendy is a Certified Early Childhood Educator and works with the Morell Early Childhood Development Centre. She has an extensive background working with youth as a teacher assistant, substitute teacher, special needs assistant, and workshop facilitator before receiving her certification in early childhood education. Active in her community, Wendy has volunteered with Girl Guides, minor sports, home and school, and 4-H. Her experience with early childhood education and her insights into maternity and parental benefits contribute greatly to Council. Wendy lives in Morell with her family.

Kim Bailey, Cornwall — Member

Council term: June 3, 2003, to June 3, 2006

Kim Bailey was born and raised in Souris, and has made Cornwall her home for the last 11 years. Educated at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, she holds degrees in Arts and Social Work, and a Masters of Education. After being a registered social worker for 14 years, she now works in education, as a school counsellor.

Darcie Pike-Wilkie, Alberton — Member

Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007

Early childhood educator Darcie Pike-Wilkie works at the Bloomfield Kindergarten and is an active parent, partner, and community volunteer. She brings to Council her hands-on knowledge of the challenges faced in the early childhood care and education sector ensuring high quality care in rural PEI. She has valuable insights into women's traditional role in caring for children.

Aleah MacLennan, Tyne Valley — Member

Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007

Aleah MacLennan is a Staff Nurse at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Tyne Valley. Her experience at the hospital has brought her a strong understanding of women's issues, especially woman abuse, in her community. Aleah is also a strong community volunteer, especially with the Women's Institute. She grew up in a farm family and has strong rural Island values. She shares with Council her perspective as an independent woman in rural PEI.

Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Norma Gallant is a Francophone woman from the Evangeline area who has been involved in issues related to equality at local, regional, provincial, and national levels for 30 years. She has also conducted workshops with men to help them value the notion of equality. She has been involved with issues such as teen dating workshops; public awareness on elder abuse; equality for women and men in church ministries in the French sector; training of coaches and trainers about abuse and harassment in sports; assistance for women to prepare Victim Impact Statements; self-esteem workshops; and training in the Language of the Gifts of Character. She serves on the PEI Justice Options Committee and its Steering Group. Norma works at the Evangeline Community Consultative Group, especially on crime prevention work.

Roseanne Sark, Summerside — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Roseanne Sark, a member of the Lennox Island First Nation, was recently hired as MCPEI Community Liaison Officer for Lennox Island First Nation. Roseanne is a mother of two. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology-Anthropology with a minor in History from Carleton University and is also certified with Reality Therapy. She has worked in the field of family violence prevention, research, recreation, cultural promotion and facilitation for various organizations including the Native Women's Association of Canada,

Lennox Island First Nation, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Human Resources Development Canada and the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre. Over the years Roseanne has been part of numerous volunteer committees and executive boards.

Catherine (Meade) McAleer, Morell — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Catherine Meade of Morell is a lone parent with four teenagers, aged 19, 18, 17, and 15. Her paid work is with Employment Pathways in Souris, where she helps people determine both career and life paths. Through training, she helps them develop work skills and life skills, including how to deal with and get over barriers. Catherine has achieved a BA, a BEd, and a Masters in Counselling. She is a strong advocate for women.

Sadie MacKenzie, Montague — Member

Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Sadie MacKenzie of Montague worked in a nursing home for 22 years as a nursing attendant and activities coordinator. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and spent a term on Montague Town Council. She has three grown children. She currently works with the PEI Liquor Control Commission. She brings to Council her insight into the special challenges of women in abusive relationships in small Island communities and women in government in small municipalities.

STAFF

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time staff members in 2005–06. The Advisory Council hires one additional staff member, Sandy Kowalik, on contract for project coordination.

At the end of April 2005, both director Heidi Rankin and researcher/policy analyst Patricia MacAulay requested one-year extensions to their leaves of absence. These were

granted. Lisa Murphy, continued as acting director and Jane Ledwell continued as acting researcher/policy analyst. In September, Heidi Rankin submitted her resignation.

Lisa Murphy's parental leave continued to December 2005, with full salary top-up from the Advisory Council. Sandy Kowalik continued to work part-time on project coordination during Lisa's leave.

Heidi Rankin, Director

Heidi joined Council in April 1997 as the Communications Coordinator; worked as Acting Director from May 2000, and began Director duties in May 2002. She requested a leave of absence from May 2004 to May 2006 and resigned in September 2005.

Lisa Murphy, Director (Acting) from May 2004 to May 2006

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2002 and was asked to return as Acting Director in May 2004 during Heidi's leave.

Patricia MacAulay, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Patricia joined the staff in November 2000 to work part-time. She requested a leave of absence from May 2004 to May 2006.

Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst (Acting) from June 2004 to June 2006

Jane Ledwell worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She was asked to fill duties of researcher/policy analyst (combined with duties of communications coordinator) full-time during Patricia's leave.

Becky Tramley, Administrative Assistant

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time.

Sandy Kowalik

Sandy works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and coordinator. She also worked part-time for Council during Lisa's parental leave in 2005.

Staff Development

- Staff meetings and planning sessions took place April 8, May 28, June 3, June 16, July 8, August 4, September 14, December 15, February 3, and March 17.
- At the February 3 meeting, Lisa Murphy initiated a consultative process to update and streamline job descriptions.
- Throughout the year, Julie Devon Dodd supplied research and resources on just and equal hiring processes and other staffing issues for Council.
- Council supported Jane Ledwell's professional development by offering time towards her Editing Immersion Workshop at Simon Fraser University in July.

NATIONAL COALITION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS

The national Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy.

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Manitoba. The Coalition is usually co-chaired by two provincial/territorial Councils.

List of Major Activities, 2005–06

- Jane Ledwell represented Council at a meeting of the national coalition in Ottawa (June 11–14). Sessions included the following:
 - sharing of innovative practices with representatives from Advisory Councils from Nova Scotia, North-West Territories, Nunavut, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador
 - meetings with national feminist organizations: NAC (National Action Committee on the Status of Women), NAWL (National Association of Women and the Law), and FAFIA (Feminist Alliance for International Action)

- a meeting with representatives from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women (Chair: MP Anita Neville)
- a round table sponsored by NDP MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis and attended by NDP leader Jack Layton and other MPs and Senators
- a one-on-one meeting with Shawn Murphy, MP with political responsibility for Prince Edward island
- a meeting with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Liza Frulla and officials from her department
- The themes of Coalition advocacy were action on women's equality, a national institutional mechanism for consulting with grassroots women and organizations, and a full-fledged ministry for women's equality.
- The PEI Advisory Council drafted the report from the meeting with Minister Frulla (June 17).
- The PEI Advisory Council wrote a briefing on Atlantic-region consultations with Status of Women Canada for Coalition members (September 20).

POLICY AND RESEARCH

COUNCIL PLANNING

During its 2003–04 fiscal year, the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women formalized a Council Planning process with the leadership and facilitation of Chairperson Kirstin Lund. This work continued in 2005–06. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on

Council's priorities and that it looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process.

Objectives Set by Council (2003 Meetings)

- To ensure government accountability to PEI women
- To better influence government policy and services
- To bring the voices of PEI women to our policy work
- To improve collaboration and communication with government
- To raise public awareness about women's equality issues

Progress on Council Planning, 2005–06

- In April 2005, Council discussed and set priority issues for public health, to be presented to Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister for Public Health.
- Much of Council's planning time at June and September meetings was dedicated to monitoring responses to and effects of the 2005 Provincial Budget, which initiated cuts to public service jobs (especially Health and Social Services) under Program Renewal and also made specific cuts to organizations such as the Human Rights Commission and the PEI Crafts Council.
- At the January Council meeting, Kirstin facilitated a Council Planning workshop including Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Gail Shea and Interministerial Women's Secretariat staffperson Faye Martin. This process identified emerging priority issues. In the final analysis, Council decided to focus efforts on continuing work to develop a cycle for following up past policy guides and other recommendations.

POLICY GUIDES

Since 2001, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has developed Policy Guides on issues that Council members and other Island women have identified as important to them. Policy Guides are based on current research, including PEI-specific data whenever it is available. As in other parts of its work, the Advisory Council strives to base Policy Guides on feminist analysis, principles, and processes, including consultation and collaboration. Analysis includes looking at diversities among women, including age, social and economic status, ability, and sexual orientation.

Each Policy Guide includes a) analysis of what current policy means for Island women, b) recommendations to government, with a view to improving the status of women and families, and c) public education materials. Guides are released to government and the public with a media conference.

In 2005–06, the Council released one policy guide, on Women and Electoral Reform. This was released at a press conference in Charlottetown on September 28, 2006, following a workshop on women and electoral reform co-sponsored by the Advisory Council and the PEI Coalition for Women in Government and facilitated by Kirstin Lund.

Contents of Women and Electoral Reform Policy Guide

- Policy Guide, including analysis and recommendations for government and political parties
- History of Women and Electoral Reform
- Fact Sheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Summary of Recommendations

Related Materials and Events

- Speakers at the press conference included Council Chairperson Kirstin Lund and Researcher/Policy Analyst Jane Ledwell. Also available for comment were members of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government and participants in the workshop on women and electoral reform.
- Media kits also included plebiscite guides and plebiscite guide summaries in English and French. (See also "Voters' Guides to the Issues.")
- The press conference was attended by the *Guardian*; a lock-out at CBC limited the media available. Chairperson Kirstin Lund provided supplementary interviews for the *Guardian*; Jane Ledwell provided them for Island Radio.
- Given the reduced access to radio and television, the press conference was preceded by a build-up of several print-based press releases focused on specific recommendations from the Policy Guide.
- The Advisory Council prepared and distributed a report on the Women and Electoral Reform workshop for participants (October).

Preparation for and Follow-up on Women and Electoral Reform Policy Guide

- Presentation to the Commission for PEI's Electoral Future (May 17)
- Press conference on the new electoral model proposed for PEI (May 27)
- Strategy session with other groups advocating electoral reform (June 7)
- Symposium on electoral reform hosted by PEI Commission on PEI's Electoral Future: Kirstin Lund served on the panel as a respondent (June 15)
- Meeting with Hon. Robert Ghiz and Chris LeClair at the Opposition office (June 15)
- Meetings with Blair Weeks, researcher for the Commission on PEI's Electoral Future, to provide advice on the Commission's draft resource materials regarding women and electoral reform (June 30, August 23)
- Luncheon with Doris Anderson and representatives of women's organizations, to discuss electoral reform efforts in PEI (July 13)
- Electoral reform strategy session held by the Institute of Island Studies (July 15)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities workshop on women in municipal government (September 7)
- Workshop on women and electoral reform for Advisory Council members, presented by Council staff (September 30)
- Final meeting of the Commission on PEI's Electoral Future (October 18)
- Participation in planning a post-plebiscite workshop on PR to be held in April

- Presentation to the Committee reviewing electoral boundaries recommendations and fixed election dates (written submission, February 8; presentation, March 23)
- Other follow-up on Women and Electoral Reform is summarized under "Voters' Guides to the Issues," since it related more directly to the Plebiscite on PEI's Electoral Future.

UPCOMING POLICY GUIDES

The Advisory Council elected to set the priority for the coming months on following up past Policy Guides rather than developing new ones. The tool

Council is developing for this follow-up is a "report card" on government's progress taking up recommendations.

Preparatory Research and Policy Work on a "Report Card"

- A proposal for beginning a cycle for following up on policy guides was in development at year-end for presentation to Council on April 18, 2006.

FOLLOW-UP AND ONGOING POLICY WORK

Council has made it a high priority to follow up on recommendations made in Policy Guides and to keep on top of developments regarding priority issues.

An important aspect of this follow-up is meeting with government officials to work collaboratively towards implementing recommendations.

List of Past Policy Guides

- Maternity and Parental Benefits, September 2004
- Early Childhood Care and Education, June 2003
- Women and Unpaid Work, January 2003
- Women's Health, September 2002
- Family Law, February 2002
- Addiction Services for Women, May 2001

Policy Guide Follow-up with Government

- Submission to the Task Force on Student Achievement, including copies of the Policy Guide on Early Childhood Care and Education (June 15)
- Participation in Women's Network presentation on Maternity and Parental Benefits, made to Ministers Gail Shea and Elmer MacFadyen and Deputy Minister Ron MacMillan; Council staff drafted a meeting report (June 21)
- Submission to Employment Standards Review Panel (March) focused on recommendations for changes to maternity, parental, and adoption leave.

Policy Guide Follow-up with Community

- Collaboration with the Early Childhood Development Association to lobby for continuing funding under federal-provincial childcare agreements (letters of support, attendance at advocacy meeting with Premier Binns, briefing meetings with Island woman attending national consultation, assistance coordinating petition for the Senate of Canada).
- Collaboration with the Working Group for a Livable Income and the Women's Network Addressing Economic Equality for Women project on their submissions for the Employment Standards Review Panel.
- Ongoing partnership work with women's organizations advocating for change on policy issues.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

ENQUIRIES AND REFERRALS

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals, groups, and government on a variety of questions and issues. These range from requests for statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and requests for advocacy. People make enquiries in person, by telephone, by e-mail, and by correspondence. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get

information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual enquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Enquiries

- Enquiries regarding government agencies and programs covered worries about Program Renewal and specific cases of job loss; also the special challenges of women with manipulative abusers who use protection orders and other services for women against the women they are abusing. Callers

also addressed hardships arising from clawbacks of Child Tax Credit Supplement for some families on social assistance.

- Referrals were frequently made to CLIA's Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so.
- General enquiries covered a wide range of topics: domestic violence, harassment and stalking, access to confidential and anonymous HIV testing, custody and visitation concerns, slow lab results in rape cases, access to health-care services for women, small business set-up for women, unjust workplace practices, and objections to women's portrayal in the media.
- Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent.

MEDIA

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of women

and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst.

List of News Releases, 2005-06

- "Government Appoints New Members to Status of Women Council" (September 20)
- "Electoral Reform Good for Island Women: Advisory Council" (September 23)
- "Advisory Council on the Status of Women Calls for Accountability" (September 26)
- "Advisory Council on the Status of Women Releases Policy Guide on Women and Electoral Reform" (September 28)
- "88th Meeting of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Held in Summerside" (October 1)
- "Provincial Status of Women Responds to Plebiscite Results" (November 28)
- "'Expect Equality' Calendar Highlights Election Issues," (January 11)
- "Advisory Council Supports Fixed Election Dates" (February 3)
- "Status of Women Provides Advice on Electoral Boundaries" (February 14)

- "Pamper and Play Fair Celebrates International Women's Week" (March 2)
- "Crane Win Brings Percentage of Women in PEI's Legislature to Highest Ever" (March 21)

List of Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2005-06

- Letter regarding cuts to PEI Crafts Council (May)
- Letter on electoral reform to CBC Radio "Island Morning" and *the Journal-Pioneer*, for the PEI Coalition for Women in Government (June 7)
- Letter regarding electoral boundaries (August 17)
- Letter regarding renaming of Charlottetown federal building after Jean Canfield (August 31)
- Letter regarding proportional representation (September 28)
- Article on women and electoral reform for Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce newsletter (October 10)
- Guest opinion: "Remembrance and Action Counter Violence Against Women" (December 6)
- Letter urging support for female federal election candidates (January 12)
- Letter focusing on poverty issues on behalf of PEI Working Group for a Livable Income/PEIACSW (January 12)
- Guest opinion: International Women's Day and PEI's Employment Standards (March 4)

Interview Requests, 2005–06

- CBC Radio (comments on access to "Plan B" contraception, June 15; fixed election dates, February 3; International Women's Day, March 8)
- CBC TV (proportional representation, June; changes to Workers' Compensation Board regulations for workers working alone, February 7)
- SRC Radio (Date Rape Drug Awareness Committee press conference, December 5; *Edwards Magazine* launch and December 6 Memorial, December 6; fixed election dates, March 23)
- SRC Television (Date Rape Drug Awareness Committee press conference, December 5)
- *Guardian* (electoral reform, September 29)
- *Edwards Magazine* (abortion access, March 24)
- All media: ACSW response to speakers at "Make Poverty History" election press conference (January 12)

Website

- Staff received preliminary training in managing the Website through InfoPEI, to allow independent control of content for 2006–07.
- The Advisory Council maintains up-to-date information about the Council and its activities on its Website, <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

VOTERS' GUIDES TO THE ISSUES

As part of its legislated mandate to inform and educate the public on the status of women in Prince Edward Island, the Advisory Council shares analysis and key questions on issues with voters during provincial and federal elections, referendums, and plebiscites.

In 2005–06, there was a plebiscite on PEI's Electoral Future called for November 28, 2005. Additionally, there was a federal election called for January 23, 2006.

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters: Plebiscite on Electoral Reform

- Developed, published, and distributed an eight-page Plebiscite Guide: "What's in PEI's Electoral Future for Women?"
- Developed, published, and distributed a one-page summary of the Plebiscite Guide available in English and in French.
- Maintained a strong media presence on issues related to electoral reform.
- Attended meeting to form "YES" Coalition and participated in Coalition meetings (September 27, October 6, October 11, October 31, November 6, January 30, and so on); contributed to writing, editing, and graphic design for pamphlets, press releases, and advertisements (all of October)

- Gave presentations on electoral reform for the Aboriginal Women's Association in Lennox Island and Charlottetown (November 9 and November 15)
- Coordinated celebrations and communications for the "YES" Coalition on plebiscite night (November 28)

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters: Federal Election 2006

- Created, published, and distributed an election resource, "Expect Equality Every Day" guide to the issues and 2006 calendar (January 3–5)
- Sent out a press release about the election resource and the issues highlighted (January 11)
- Submitted letters to the editor regarding electing women candidates (January 12) and addressing poverty issues on behalf of PEI Working Group for a Livable Income/PEIACSW (January 12)
- Participation in partners' projects such as a press conference on poverty issues, sponsored by Make Poverty History; included materials from the Working Group for a Livable Income in our election mailout.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered 726 at the beginning of 2006. They receive Council publications, including occasional *Activities Updates*. Members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly

listing of community events and notices. Becky Tramley maintains the ACSW's mailing lists.

The Advisory Council also regularly sends notes of congratulations to individual women and groups who have achieved great things or made a difference in their communities.

Activities Updates, 2005–06

- *Activities Update*, Fall 2005 (November)

Mail-outs, 2005–06

- Plebiscite on Electoral Reform and Make Poverty History materials (October 5)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 23)
- Federal Election materials (January 12)
- International Women's Day materials (February 24)

COMMUNITY LIAISON

MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE ON ISSUES

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Selected Meetings, 2005–06

- Meetings with Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (May 26, September 20, November 24, January 25 Council meeting)
- Meetings with Sandy Bentley, Interministerial Women's Secretariat, to draft an agreement for the disbursement of remaining funds in joint "Making History/Building Futures" project (June 7, June 21)
- Meetings with Andrea Simpson, Status of Women Canada (June 24, Aug. 25)
- Meeting with Greg Deighan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and Charles MacKay, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, regarding under-representation of women on the Commission on PEI's Electoral Future (April 1)
- Meeting with federal Minister of Public Health, Carolyn Bennett; shared one-pager outlining the Advisory Council's Public Health priorities (April 27)

- Telephone meetings with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women as part of their national consultation process (throughout May)
- Meeting with Janet Marshall, newly retired from the Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre (January 27)
- Meetings of feminist organizations to discuss the possibility of bringing the community together to make agreements about how we want to work and problem solve together (throughout early 2006)
- Meeting with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy and Patti Devine (March 15)
- Meeting led by the Early Childhood Development Association with Premier Pat Binns; Minister of Social Services and Seniors Chester Gillan; Deputy Minister Jeannette MacAulay; and Health Child Development coordinator Sarah Henry-Gallant to advocate for structural support for the early childhood care system (February 15)
- Meeting with Anne Nicholson and Gwynn Davies regarding Circle of Caring project (February 7)

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2005–06

- Meetings with the Min. Gail Shea are supported by a memorandum outlining issues. These memos covered several issues not reflected elsewhere in this report, including the following: thanks for increased funding for family violence prevention; calls for Program Renewal to incorporate gender-based analysis; advocacy for provincewide public transit; support for increased funding for Rape Crisis and mental health services; comments on the Speech from the Throne; messages for federal/provincial/territorial Status of Women ministers

- A Council nominations package was submitted to Minister Gail Shea (March 1)
- Response to survey for the National Clearing House on Family Violence (May)
- Submission to and meeting with Sandi MacKinnon, Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission (IRAC), regarding the review of the *Rental of Residential Properties Act* (meeting September 25; submission December 9)
- Letter to the University of Prince Edward Island regarding student wage rates, on behalf of Working Group for a Livable Income members of the Social Economy Research project (February 8)
- Letters to members of the legislative committee reviewing electoral boundaries (February 8)
- Letter to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in support of the Newfoundland and Labrador Advisory Council and its independent hiring practices (February 10)
- Support drafting an opinion piece on childcare written on behalf of the Social Economy Research group (February 25; published in Women's Network newsletter, later republished in *Guardian* in May 2006)
- Letter of support for increased funding to Rape Crisis Centre (March 10)
- Submission to the Employment Standards Review Panel: focus on job-protected maternity and parental leave (submitted March 10; presentation on March 28); the Advisory Council also contributed comments and draft text to Employment Standards submissions by the Working Group for a Livable Income and Women's Network (February and March)

EVENTS

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the

event: to share research and perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups.

Selected Events, 2005–06

- Public Health Agency consultation on Canada's Public Health Goals (April 27)
- AIDS-PEI consultation on Women and AIDS in PEI (May 11)
- Atlantic Seniors' Housing Research consultation (May 16)
- NOCA's ovarian cancer stakeholders' meeting (May 17)
- Quality of Island Life Co-op presentation on community accounts (May 18)
- PEI Senior Citizens' Federation AGM (May 24)
- Public Transit Coalition public forum (May 24)
- Women's Network press conference on youth sexual health (May 31)
- Anti-homophobia rally in Charlottetown (June 1)
- Prescription Drug Use: A Dialogue on Needs, Challenges, and Links to Crime workshop coordinated by PEI Prescription Drug Awareness Group (June 7)
- Workshops on Interagency Domestic Violence Response (June 9, October 4)
- Women's Network/EPWIC consultation on Family Law Legal Aid (July 6)
- Golf Against Assault and Golf Tournament sponsored by Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force

- Round-table meeting of community groups with federal NDP leader Jack Layton (September 1)
- Anti-poverty rally for Make Poverty History (September 10)
- Rally in support of locked out CBC employees (September 22)
- ACSW-coordinated consultation for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), including draft of final report (October 24); Advisory Council member Catherine (Meade) McAleer was selected to attend the national consultation in Ottawa
- Presentation on women in government for Canada World Youth participants (October 14)
- Make Poverty History Walking Tour of Charlottetown Poverty (October 17: International Day for the Elimination of Poverty, culmination of the World March of Women)
- PEI Teachers' Federation Annual Convention: interactive display of art and materials from "First Hand: Arts, Crafts, and Culture Created by PEI Women in the 20th Century," to promote classroom uptake (October 20 and 21)
- Women's Network's Atlantic Parental Benefits workshop to finalize recommendations (October 31–November 1)
- Women's Network workshop on Addressing Economic Equality for Women (November 8)
- Conference on Family-Centred Care (November 9)
- 2005 Children's Think-tank (November 22)
- World AIDS Day breakfast hosted by AIDS PEI (December 1)
- *Edwards Magazine* launch; Jane Ledwell was guest speaker (December 10)

- Community Legal Information Association Open House (December 20)
- Circle of Caring (February 7)
- Family Law Legal Aid next steps workshop (February 14)
- Women's Network event for International Women's Day (March 7)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families. Participating actively as partners on

projects is an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press recommendations forward over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List of Partnerships

- AIDS PEI Changing Face of AIDS Advisory Committee
- Circle of Safety project (facilitated by Kirstin Lund to create safety and support around a survivor of abuse)
- Date Rape Drug Awareness Committee (PEI Liquor Control Commission)
- Female Reintegration Committee
- Healthier Food, Healthier People Workshop Steering Committee
- Justice Options for Women.
- LEAF National and LEAF PEI
- Make Poverty History

- Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government
- PEI Public Transit Coalition
- PEI Senior Citizens' Federation project: Seniors Influencing Public Policy
- PEI Women's Coalition: Social Justice and Family Legal Aid for Women and Children project
- PEI Working Group for a Livable Income
- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention
- Social Economy Research Group
- Victim Services Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI Atlantic Parental Benefits Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI AEEW (Addressing Economic Equality for Women) project
- Women's Network PEI Youth Sexual Health Caucus
- YES on MMP Coalition

LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS

PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with local facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near

December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also helps organize a noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

The Council's 15th Purple Ribbon Campaign was supported by the City of Charlottetown and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2005

- Theme for the year: "Violence against Women Has No Age Limit"
- Highlighted Statistic: 1,986 women called on support services across PEI in 2005.
- Number of ribbons and cards distributed: Approximately 27,000 in French and English

- The Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee was held at the Coles Building in Charlottetown (November 3).
- "Remembrance and Action Counter Violence Against Women" by Sandy Kowalik was published as a guest opinion in the *Guardian* (December 6)
- Sandy Kowalik gave a presentation on Purple Ribbon and the theme of elder abuse to the PEI Senior Citizens' Federation on November 3 in Kensington. The *Voice for Island Seniors* highlighted information about violence against older women in its January edition.
- Sandy Kowalik made a presentation about Purple Ribbon at the 14th Annual Daniel O'Hanley Memorial Lecture (November 13) and to a City of Charlottetown reception (December 13).
- The Advisory Council brought together and coordinated the Memorial Service planning committee for the Charlottetown December 6 service. Summerside's Memorial Service was coordinated by East Prince Women's Information Centre.
- The Charlottetown service this year recognized not only the women murdered in Montreal in 1989, but also the women who have been murdered in PEI in the years since.
- Sandy Kowalik coordinated planning to have a faded "Stop Violence" mural in downtown Charlottetown repainted with the logo from the Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and

education focus on women's equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement.

For IWD 2006, Council directed staff to reduce the costs associated with IWD events and to put their energy into collaboration on the events described below.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2006

- Council recommended that staff focus their efforts on developing a poster that groups across PEI could use to promote their own events, and that staff also play a role in assisting other groups to plan and promote events.
- Lisa Murphy created an IWDay poster featuring artwork by Sandy Kowalik.
- Council staff assisted in planning and putting on a Charlottetown International Women's Day event, "Pamper and Play Women's Fair," held on March 11.
- Council offered planning assistance and posters in support of community groups' IWD events and promoted these on the ACSW Website and electronic mailing list.
- Jane Ledwell submitted an IWD guest opinion for Charlottetown *Guardian* and Summerside *Journal-Pioneer*.

BURSARIES FOR WOMEN

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. Two of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince

Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for late Council vice-chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada.

Bursary Recipients

- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: Teri Kane
- Holland College Bursary: Marion Muir
- Inge Blackett Bursary: Masseray Hassan

PUBLICATIONS LIST

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available directly from the Advisory Council or (in most cases) on its Website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

- "2005 Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence: Violence against Women Has No Age Limit" (English Purple Ribbon information card, November 2005)
- "Campagne 2005 du ruban violet contre la violence : la violence envers les femmes ne connaît pas de limite d'âge" (French Purple Ribbon information card, November 2005)
- "Expect Equality Every Day" (Federal election resource/2006 calendar, January 3)
- *Final Report Women and Electoral Reform: A Workshop to Explore the Recently Proposed Mixed Member Proportional System and Its Impact on Women in PEI*, September 28, 2005 (Workshop report, October 2005)
- *First Hand: Arts, Crafts, and Culture Created by PEI Women of the 20th Century/De première main : l'art, l'artisanat et la culture créés par les femmes de l'Î.-P.-É. au 20e siècle* (Hard copy of on-line/CD-ROM project, printed for archival purposes: one copy retained at Advisory Council office; one copy submitted to UPEI Robertson Library PEI Collection, November 2005).

- “Qu’est-ce que le futur électoral de l’Île renferme pour les femmes?” (French version of one-page summary of plebiscite guide, October 2005)
- *Submission to the Employment Standards Review Panel* (Including analysis, recommendations, and chart summarizing better practices, March 10)
- *Submission to PEI Task Force on Student Achievement* (Letter to task force chair Dr. Richard Kurial, accompanied by Policy Guide on Early Childhood Care and Education, June 15)
- “What’s in Prince Edward Island’s Electoral Future for Women?” (Eight-page plebiscite guide, October 2005)
- “What’s in Prince Edward Island’s Electoral Future for Women?” (One page summary of plebiscite guide, October 2005)
- *Women and Electoral Reform Policy Guide* (including Policy Guide, Fact Sheet, Summary of Recommendations, History, and Frequently Asked Questions)
- “Women’s Equality Is a Public Health Issue” (Comments for Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Canadian Minister of State for Public Health, April 27)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS


AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and surplus and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Colin Younker, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
May 31, 2006

STATEMENT 1			
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
MARCH 31, 2006			
	2006	2005	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	\$1,437	\$5,478	
Accounts receivable			
- Province of PEI	1,500	-	
- General	1,568	847	
Prepaid expenses	1,124	1,030	
	<u>\$5,649</u>	<u>\$7,355</u>	
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$5,614	\$6,109	
Surplus	35	1,246	
	<u>\$5,649</u>	<u>\$7,355</u>	
(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)			
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL			
Chairperson:	<u>Patricia</u>		
Member:	<u>Michelle Chudson</u>		

STATEMENT 2			
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN			
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006			
	2006	2005	
Revenues			
Provincial appropriation - Note 2	\$150,200	\$149,120	
Program revenue	2,816	1,160	
Miscellaneous revenues	6	488	
	<u>153,022</u>	<u>150,768</u>	
Expenditures			
Administration	3,421	3,892	
Bursary	800	550	
Conferences	1,823	75	
Equipment leases - Notes 1(b) and 3	2,605	2,630	
Equipment purchases - Note 1(a)	2,212	1,416	
Honoraria	12,924	11,972	
Materials and supplies	3,531	4,613	
Program expenses	6,338	6,716	
Salaries and benefits	117,763	116,554	
Travel - in Province	2,876	2,735	
	<u>154,233</u>	<u>151,153</u>	
Excess expenditures for the year	(1,211)	(365)	
Surplus, beginning of year	1,246	1,611	
Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 35</u>	<u>\$ 1,246</u>	
(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)			

STATEMENT 3

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	2006	2005
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Cash received from Province of PEI	\$148,700	\$148,120
Cash received from programs	2,816	1,150
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	8	488
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(117,422)	(116,370)
Cash paid for materials and services	(38,121)	(22,926)
Net decrease in cash	(4,021)	(1,518)
Cash, beginning of year	5,479	6,996
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,457	\$ 5,478

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2006

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for Not-For-Profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

2. Provincial Appropriation:

The Provincial Appropriation amount of \$150,200 includes an operating grant of \$148,700 and other provincial grants totalling \$1,500.

3. Equipment Lease:

A photocopier is leased until August 15, 2011 and the annual lease commitment is \$2,356.

4. Pension Costs:

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan. The employer's share of the plan benefits plus any additional future actuarial liabilities are assumed by the Province of PEI and are not reflected in the Council's financial statements.

5. Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities:

The fair value of the entity's cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying values.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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